Members absent for more than four months.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Before we resume the discussion, I rise to two points of order—very important from the non-official point of view. On page 21 of the Cochin Legislative Council Electoral Rules, Rule 22, sub-rule 2 says:

"If, for a period of four consecutive months, any member is unable to attend to the duties of his membership, Government may, by notification in the Gazette, declare that the seat in Council of that member has become vacant".

My object in drawing your attention is also to draw the attention of the absent members that, if they are absent during this session, and have been absent during the last session, they will have to vacate their seats. We have got four months intervening before the next session would come, which is only in Karkadagam, so that between this session and the Karkadagam session, there will be four months, and if they did not attend during this session, they will have to vacate under this rule. Some members who were absent during the last meeting are not present at this meeting also, and I want to draw their attention to the fact that, if they do not come here for this session also, they will have to vacate their seats.

President.—But supposing a member is absent at this sitting, but was present at the last sitting, what is your opinion?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Even then he has to forfeit his seat. There are six members absent, and if they do not come at least one day, they are liable to forfeit their seats. I want to draw the attention of the absent members to the fact.

President.—How can you draw their attention?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The members present will draw their attention by writing to them or telegraphing to them.

President.—What is the other point?

Acceptance of Office by a non-official.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The other point is hat raised yesterday with reference to the Hon'ble Member for Trippunittura. I do'nt want that he should vacate his seat, but there is the provision in the rule which is imperative, and there is no option. Section 6 of the Regulation says that, if a non-official member accepts office in the service of the Government his seat in the Council shall become vacant. That is in Regulation VIII of 1098. But my difficulty was whether the Court of Wards is an institution of the Government. It is entirely composed of a

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